

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 03393 031832Z

67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 108711

R 031821Z EAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9530

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 03393

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK

SUBJECT: LORD GEORGE-BROWN RESIGNS FROM LABOR PARTY

REF: LONDON 17454

1. LORD GEORGE-BROWN, FORMER DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY AND FOREIGN SECRETARY, MARCH 2 ANNOUNCED HIS FORMAL AND IRREVOCABLE RESIGNATION FROM THE LABOR PARTY AFTER 45 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP. HE ATTRIBUTED HIS DECISION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S UNWILLINGNESS TO AMEND THE CLOSED SHOP PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE UNION AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL (REFTEL) AND THE MARCH 1 SOLZHENITZEN TV INTERVIEW WHICH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. THE LABOR PARTY. GEORGE-BROWN CHARGED, "REFUSES FREEDOM TO INDIVIDUALS." IN THE FUTURE HE WILL FIND A PLACE AMONG THE INDEPENDENT CROSSBENCH PEERS.

2. COMMENT: GEORGE-BROWN'S INFLUENCE IN THE LABOR PARTY HAS DECLINED STEADILY SINCE HIS 1970 LOSS OF HIS SEAT IN COMMONS AND HIS SUBSEQUENT ELEVATION TO LORDS, VIRTUALLY REACHING ZERO IN RECENT YEARS. IN SHORT, HE BECAME A LIVING ANACHRONISM. WILSON'S DECISION NOT TO INCLUDE GEORGE-BROWN IN LABOR'S DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHICH HE BADLY WISHED TO LEAD, WAS PROBABLY THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 03393 031832Z

FINAL BLOW. DESPITE GEORGE-BROWN'S STATEMENT.

3. IT IS ALWAYS DISQUIETING TO SEE A FORMER POLITICAL LEADER ON THE DECLINE, AND GEORGE-BROWN WAS NO EXCEPTION. ON TV LAST NIGHT HE WAS A PATHETIC MAN, THE PATHOS ACCENTUATED BY THE MEDIA'S TASTELESS COVERAGE OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT. HE WAS PURSUED BY THE MEDIA AND, OBVIOUSLY IN HIS CUPS AND ONLY PARTIALLY COHERENT, INTERVIEWED REPEATEDLY. THE GUARDIAN, HOWEVER. WON THE BAD TASTE OF THE YEAR SWEEPSTAKES BY RUNNING A FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM SPRAWLED IN THE STREET FOLLOWING A TV INTERVIEW. IT WAS A SAD POLITICAL END FOR A MAN WHO, IN HIS TIME AND DESPITE HIS FOIBLES, WAS OFTEN AN INSPIRING AND INNOVATIVE LEADER.

SPIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON03393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760081-0590
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603111/aaaaghhe.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 17454
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970924
Subject: LORD GEORGE-BROWN RESIGNS FROM LABOR PARTY
TAGS: PINT, UK, PINT, (GEORGE-BROWN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006